

Reply to Final Office of March 31, 2006
Amendment Dated: May 15, 2006

Appl. No.: 10/614,611
Attorney Docket No.: CSCO-033/7051

Listing of Claims

1 Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of supporting a user to access a service,
2 said method being performed in a service selection gateway (SSG), said method
3 comprising:

4 receiving in said SSG, data representing a plurality of switching time points, ~~each~~
5 ~~of said plurality of switching points comprising a time point;~~

6 counting in said SSG, a traffic volume from or to each of said plurality of
7 switching time points; and

8 sending from said SSG, an accounting record containing said traffic volume.

1 Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein each of said
2 plurality of switching time points comprises specifies a corresponding time instance point
3 at which a tariff changes to access said service.

1 Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 2, wherein said traffic volume comprises
2 an aggregate count of data transferred.

1 Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 2, wherein said traffic volume
2 comprises a marginal count from a previous switching time point, said accounting record
3 further comprising an aggregate count.

1 Claim 5 (Original): The method of claim 4, further comprising maintaining a
2 marginal counter and an aggregate counter to count said marginal count and said
3 aggregate count respectively.

1 Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 4, further comprising:
2 maintaining a single counter to count said aggregate count;
3 storing said aggregate count in a variable at each of said plurality of switching time
4 points; and

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5 computing said marginal count at a time of generating said accounting record by
6 subtracting said variable from said aggregate counter at said time.

1 Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 4, wherein said accounting
2 record is sent at least once in every tariff duration, wherein said tariff duration is between
3 successive ones of said plurality of switching time points.

1 Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 7, wherein said plurality of
2 switching time points are specified for each day.

1 Claim 9 (Original): The method of claim 4, wherein said service is billed according
2 to a post-paid model.

1 Claim 10 (Original): The method of claim 4, wherein said traffic volume is
2 associated with a session initiated by said user.

1 Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A machine readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions for causing a SSG to support a user to access a service, wherein
3 execution of said one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors
4 contained in said SSG causes said one or more processors to perform the actions of:

5 receiving in said SSG, data representing a plurality of switching time points;
6 wherein each of said switching points comprises a time point;

7 counting in said SSG, a traffic volume from or to each of said plurality of
8 switching time points; and

9 sending from said SSG, an accounting record containing said traffic volume.

1 Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The machine readable medium of claim 11,
2 wherein each of said plurality of switching time points comprises specifies a
3 corresponding time instance point at which a tariff changes to access said service.

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1 Claim 13 (Original): The machine readable medium of claim 12, wherein said
2 traffic volume comprises an aggregate count of data transferred.

1 Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The machine readable medium of claim 12,
2 wherein said traffic volume comprises a marginal count from a previous switching time
3 point, said accounting record further comprising an aggregate count.

1 Claim 15 (Original): The machine readable medium of claim 14, further
2 comprising maintaining a marginal counter and an aggregate counter to count said
3 marginal count and said aggregate count respectively.

1 Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The machine readable medium of claim 14,
2 further comprising:

3 maintaining a single counter to count said aggregate count;
4 storing said aggregate count in a variable at each of said plurality of switching time
5 points; and

6 computing said marginal count at a time of generating said accounting record by
7 subtracting said variable from said aggregate counter at said time.

1 Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The machine readable medium of claim 14,
2 wherein said accounting record is sent at least once in every tariff duration, wherein said
3 tariff duration is between successive ones of said plurality of switching time points.

1 Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The machine readable medium of claim 17,
2 wherein said plurality of switching time points are specified for each day of a week.

1 Claim 19 (Original): The machine readable medium of claim 14, wherein said
2 service is billed according to a post-paid model.

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1 Claim 20 (Original): The machine readable medium of claim 14, wherein said
2 traffic volume is associated with a session initiated by said user.

1 Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A service selection gateway (SSG) supporting
2 a user to access a service, said SSG comprising:

3 means for receiving data representing a plurality of switching time points; wherein
4 each of said switching points comprises a time point;

5 means for counting a traffic volume from or to each of said plurality of switching
6 time points; and

7 means for sending an accounting record containing said traffic volume.

1 Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The SSG of claim 21, wherein each of said
2 plurality of switching time points specifies comprises a corresponding time instance point
3 at which a tariff changes to access said service.

1 Claim 23 (Original): The SSG of claim 22, wherein said traffic volume comprises
2 an aggregate count of data transferred.

1 Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The SSG of claim 22, wherein said traffic volume
2 comprises a marginal count from a previous switching time point, said accounting record
3 further comprising an aggregate count.

1 Claim 25 (Original): The SSG of claim 24, further comprising means for
2 maintaining a marginal counter and an aggregate counter to count said marginal count and
3 said aggregate count respectively.

1 Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The SSG of claim 24, further comprising:
2 means for maintaining a single counter to count said aggregate count;
3 means for storing said aggregate count in a variable at each of said plurality of
4 switching time points; and

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5 means for computing said marginal count at a time of generating said accounting
6 record by subtracting said variable from said aggregate counter at said time.

1 Claim 27 (Currently Amended): The SSG of claim 24, wherein said accounting
2 record is sent at least once in every tariff duration, wherein said tariff duration is between
3 successive ones of said plurality of switching time points.

1 Claim 28 (Currently Amended): The SSG of claim 27, wherein said plurality of
2 switching time points are specified for each day.

1 Claim 29 (Original): The SSG of claim 24, wherein said service is billed according
2 to a post-paid model.

1 Claim 30 (Original): The SSG of claim 24, wherein said traffic volume is
2 associated with a session initiated by said user.

1 Claim 31 (Currently Amended): A service selection gateway (SSG) supporting a
2 user to access a service, said SSG comprising:

3 a tariff block receiving data representing a plurality of switching time points;
4 ~~wherein each of said switching points comprises a time point;~~

5 a forwarding block forwarding a plurality of packets related to said user;

6 an accounting block counting a traffic volume from or to each of said plurality of
7 switching time points according to said plurality of packets; and

8 an outbound interface sending an accounting record containing said traffic volume.

1 Claim 32 (Currently Amended): The SSG of claim 31, wherein each of said
2 plurality of switching time points comprises specifies a corresponding time instance point
3 at which a tariff changes to access said service.

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1 Claim 33 (Original): The SSG of claim 32, wherein said traffic volume comprises
2 an aggregate count of data transferred.

1 Claim 34 (Currently Amended): The SSG of claim 32, wherein said traffic volume
2 comprises a marginal count from a previous switching time point, said accounting record
3 further comprising an aggregate count.

1 Claim 35 (Original): The SSG of claim 34, wherein said accounting block
2 maintains a marginal counter and an aggregate counter to count said marginal count and
3 said aggregate count respectively.

1 Claim 36 (Currently Amended): The SSG of claim 34, wherein said accounting
2 block maintains a single counter to count said aggregate count, said accounting block
3 storing said aggregate count in a variable at each of said plurality of switching time
4 points, and computing said marginal count at a time of generating said accounting record
5 by subtracting said variable from said aggregate counter at said time.

1 Claim 37 (Currently Amended): The SSG of claim 34, wherein said accounting
2 record is sent at least once in every tariff duration, wherein said tariff duration is between
3 successive ones of said plurality of switching time points.

1 Claim 38 (Currently Amended): The SSG of claim 37, wherein said plurality of
2 switching time points are specified for each day.

1 Claim 39 (Original): The SSG of claim 34, wherein said service is billed according
2 to a post-paid model.

1 Claim 40 (Original): The SSG of claim 34, wherein said traffic volume is
2 associated with a session initiated by said user.

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1 Claim 41 (New): The SSG of claim 31, wherein said outbound interface is coupled
2 to a plurality of physical paths, wherein said forwarding block examines a header of each of
3 said plurality of packets to determine the specific one of said plurality of physical paths on
4 which to forward each packet, whereby said SSG operates as a switch in forwarding said
5 packets.

1 Claim 42 (New): The SSG of claim 41, wherein said forwarding block determines said
2 specific one of said plurality of physical paths based on a destination address contained in
3 said header, wherein said SSG operates a router.

1 Claim 43 (New): The method of claim 1, wherein said SSG is coupled to a plurality
2 of physical paths, said method further comprising:
3 receiving a plurality of packets on said plurality of physical paths;
4 examining a header of each of said plurality of paths to determine the specific one of
5 said plurality of physical paths on which to forward the packet; and
6 forwarding each of said plurality of packets on the determined one of said plurality
7 of physical paths,
8 whereby said SSG operates as a switch.